

Harold Weisberg Hysttatown, Md. 20734 9/14

Dear Elfrage,

The text of WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT, if now complete, is very rough rough. As you can imagine, it was slipped and slid in and around the requirements of a publisher, publicist, mail clerk, janitor and researcher. It does tell who did the whitewashing and it, I think, in its own way, more shocking than WHITEWASH. I fear only for the writing, not the content, which I without false modest say is like nothing else.

WHITEWASH is a success, but we yet have no revenue from it. We have sold, as books are sold, if they ever are, a few over 10,000 copies, despite everything. The third 3,000 is off the press and through the bindery, I suppose, by now. I picked up some of the first of them. We have money coming to us but it is slow coming in. We shall pay all the cash costs and get out of debt, including our living expenses for this long period, when all the dough is in. I will not be surprised to get offers for it, for it is still the closest thing to a complete book, lacks nothing of responsibility and importance the others have, and has twice what all together have, including the coming evil by Popkiss, which is its own kind of scandal, one of four of which I already know that the subject matter requires my silence about. There are at least two and probably a third cases of plagiarism.

That I now need your sweet daughter cannot offer, for she is too busy. I have two long chapters, written earlier, to integrate. Then I'll have to read it. Then I'll need dependable editing. Do you know anyone who I can trust? I emphasize this because I cannot now indicate the content to you. I assure you it could not be invented any better and it is nonetheless all official.

I have an offer from a small house who representative I expect tomorrow. There are some unacceptable aspects of it, including a minimum of five months' delay. With this I will not agree, not with this subject and content. Our present plans (oh, my poor wife) are to begin typing it for another private printing, having learned from the errors of the first, with a new typewriter that makes straight lines, and with a beginning design for a 6x9 rather than a 7x10 page. This it will require more pages but will be more legible. It will cost more. I think I now have a mailing list enough to return the cash cost. But I hope for normal publication.

My fear now is the Reichstag fire potential in the subject, subtly inflamed by such lubricious fakess as Lane. I regret Aronson's lack of careful reading, of which I shall not write him. Lane lies, distorts and misrepresents unnecessarily. He is in charge of Ft. Know the first thing he does is rush to the five and ten for cheap gilt paint. But worse, he and Trevor-Roper intend to make Earl Warren the ~~gai~~ goat. Warren made his mistakes, and for them he'll eventually answer. But how he did and who boxed him in and why no intelligent man can ignore. "He'll soon have a chance to know, too! Meaning the mature man. To do this they began with an uncorrected factual error I called to Holt's attention in May. Lane, not Holt, replied, acknowledging his bead on Warren. Sample of what he does: he has edited all the quotes from the record, while keeping them in quotes, to eliminate the names of all the assistant counsel, those who did the dirty work. These are now faceless. Warren's and Rankin's names are always used in the quotes. Rankin is bad enough, but the ~~at~~ others did it. Neither the reader nor the historian will be able to learn from Lane how it happened. This is not accidental. He even tried, when we taped a TV show with four others (due in syndication in a month and an outgrowth of my eating the wrong meaning, right people on a people-eater show in July) he apparently took advantage of his presence in New York to discourage the station from having my few visuals that showed the doctoring of evidence. These cost nothing. Instead he conned them into spending lots of money on bad gimmickry, most of which had to be junked on camers. When I then tried to merely talk about it, he tried to cut me off on the pretense that, as his book says, these pictures are unimportant. I then

I regret for the only time climbed on him and the Commission's staff. My reasons were partly the same ~~that~~ as impel my silence at the thievery and partly a desire to avoid coming through as an aginner. I was engaged in filling my belly with chunks of red Jacob-Cohen meat. This is another wretched person, from whom falsity flows as unembarrassed as burps from a baby. He is incapable of speaking truthfully and his face is radiant as he lies. The night before when we had talked the whole thing over (Lane was absent) and he had pulled only this kind of stuff I had, with some restraint, offered him samples of what he might expect on camera. As he left, great and noble soul that he is, he said to me that he really owed me an apology for his conduct ~~in~~ but that he "be fair" when we taped. I assured him he would, one way or the other. He was wonderful! I could have asked for nothing better. If he is, as reputed, CIA, he should be unemployed! I tell you, truth can be both a shield and a sword!

Confidentially, this may be the first four-hour TV special in history. They now think they have something. The program director three days ago over the phone paid me the high compliment of recalling my 4 a.m. post-taping words, "an important and historic national document". They may do three ^{it} it will not be aired for a month. Following the ^{airing} they'll spend some time promoting and advertising. I understand all Metromedia stations will carry it. That includes Washington and LA besides New York. I think they can use the sound on their am radio stations, too. I have been talking to them about a documentary on the evidence. Not slick stiff like Lane's, but converting the tube into a home courtroom by using stills of documents, the like of which people never see, and showing how evidence was tampered with and destroyed. I'm hopeful some BBC interest in this may develop.

In case I didn't tell you, all this happened after my appearance on the Alan Burke show on WNEW tv the night of July 23-4, taped a week or so earlier. I thought it would be live and expected the scheduled half-hour session. As things went, it grew into two hours. Laying in wait were four lawyers lead by one I understand is connected with Lane's publisher, Holt. It took me an hour and a half to reaffirm to them the golden qualities of silence and a half hour remained for zing! zing! boom! with the evidence they'd asked for but tried bot to gear. It was a real thing. The program went off the air 2 a.m. Sunday morning and beginning then people started looking up my phone number and placing long distance calls. It was a wonderful outpouring, followed by hundreds of similar, inspiring letters. As a consequence I now have a volunteer legal staff doing some of the legal work. Two immediate subjects, one half done, the legal aspects of Oswald in the hand of public authority and those of the autopsy. Well, this reaction (and the station, aside from phone got less than I. taught them that I was responsible, not those who sought to destroy me, and that I knew what to do with two legs and a mouth. Their calls, as recently as two weeks ago, were still 3-5 a day on this show. So they see, besides public service, commercial values.

Now you know how the whole thing was opened upon despite no and bad reviews in the commercial press. This and similar stuff on radio. Others are picking up the chips, but I knocked the hole.

Now I've got to get the mail, tend to it, and get back to work. Went to ask and tell.

Sincerely,